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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

October 30 - November 7, 1991

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Remarks

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Prepared for delivery by Deputy Secretary Ann Veneman, Nutrition Labeling, Washington, D.C. Nov. 6.

It's a privilege for me to represent Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan while he's out of the country, and to join Secretary Sullivan and Commissioner Kessler in this historic step affecting the nation's consumers.

The Bush administration today is acting on a key domestic issue that calls for uniform nutrition labels that people can understand. No more confusing claims and labels. Just honest-to-goodness information that means what it says.

The 1990 Nutrition Labeling and Education Act affects all foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and Secretary Sullivan has done a superb job in implementing the details.

But the law does not apply to meat and poultry products, which the USDA oversees. In the belief that consumers should have comprehensive nutritional information on all food, the Bush administration today is acting to close that gap.

Therefore, the Agriculture Department is proposing rules for meat and poultry products which are separate, but parallel to the plans by Secretary Sullivan. Taken together, they create a comprehensive labeling package.

As a key architect of the law while he was in Congress, Secretary Madigan is strongly committed to providing nutrition information to all Americans. His commitment to sensible nutrition information helped bring the Department of Agriculture to the proposals we are announcing today.

The administration's package will require nutrition labeling of processed foods and establish a voluntary labeling program for fresh produce, seafood, meat and poultry.

The Agriculture Department will require roughly 9,000 meat and poultry firms to spell out nutrition information on an estimated 500,000 labels—everything from hot dogs and ham to beef burritos and chicken pot pies. And we will encourage voluntary labeling of raw, single-ingredient products, such as chicken breasts or hamburger.

The proposed rules call for 131 serving sizes for foods, 23 of which are for meat and poultry products. These serving sizes reflect what people customarily consume. They are designed so consumers can compare nutrient information about similar products, such as meat, poultry and fish products.

Consumers will be able to compare the calories, fat, protein and other nutrients of a three-ounce serving of fresh trout with a three-ounce serving of chicken breast; a can of vegetable soup with a can of beef vegetable soup; or a meat lasagna dinner with a cheese lasagna dinner.

We also are announcing today that HHS and USDA will use identical descriptors for food products, such as “lite,” “reduced,” “low” and “free.” These terms will mean the same thing on every product.

We are also proposing two additional descriptors specifically for meat and poultry products: “lean” and “extra lean.” These descriptors will allow consumers to compare the nutritional profile among beef, pork and poultry products.

As part of this voluntary process, we will allow stores to provide nutrition information on fresh meat and poultry in brochures, posters, videos or other point-of-purchase materials.

The public is invited to comment on these proposals for up to 90 days. We will carefully review all the comments we receive to determine whether changes are needed.

The nutrition labeling proposals will take the mystery out of food labels and help consumers understand the nutrition levels of foods. We hope consumers will use nutrition labels to adhere to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and to select foods that fit into a total, healthful diet.

The new labels will also put food companies on an equal-footing. They will have a single set of rules and guidelines to follow when labeling their products. Our actions today should provide additional incentives to companies to develop lower fat, more nutritious products.

When I go to the grocery store, I read labels. And I sometimes find them confusing. I know a lot of other people do too.

When these proposals are implemented, every consumer will be presented with clear nutritional information that will allow them to make informed choices about their diet and health.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON 1992 RICE PROGRAM AND WORLD MARKET RICE PRICE FORMULA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation is requesting comments on provisions of the 1992 rice program and the formula and procedures for announcing the world market price for rice, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

Comments are requested on the following provisions:

—Whether an acreage reduction program should be implemented for the 1992 crop of rice and, if so, the percentage reduction;

—Whether the weekly announcement of the world market price of rice should occur at 7:00 a.m. each Tuesday, Eastern time; and

—Whether rice marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments should be provided on the basis of national average milling yields rather than calculated on the milling yields of individual eligible quantities of rice.

Comments should be sent to: Dr. Orval Kerchner, Acting Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3714-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Comments must be received by Nov. 25.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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USDA ANNOUNCES 1992 CROP UPLAND COTTON PROGRAM PROVISIONS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—A preliminary 10 percent Acreage Reduction Program requirement for the 1992 upland cotton program was announced today by Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The 1990 Farm Bill requires the upland cotton ARP be announced by Nov. 1. It also requires that the ARP target a ratio of total stocks to total

disappearance of 30 percent. Total disappearance means the total use of upland cotton, including all domestic, export and residual stocks.

Based on USDA's October supply and use estimates, the 10 percent ARP level is consistent with this ratio. A final ARP requirement, which may be different from today's preliminary announcement, must be announced by Jan. 1 if supply and demand conditions warrant.

Other 1992-crop upland cotton program provisions announced today include:

—The established target price will be the statutory minimum of 72.9 cents per pound.

—A 52.35 cents per pound loan level is established for Strict Low Middling 1-1/16 inch, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex.

—No paid land diversion will be offered.

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

#

USDA ANNOUNCES ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM SIGNUP DATES FOR 1992 FARM PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the 1992 acreage reduction program signup for feed grains, wheat, rice, and upland and ELS cotton will be Feb. 10 through April 17, 1992.

These dates could be delayed depending on when Congressional action is completed on pending technical corrections to existing agricultural laws, Madigan said.

The secretary has announced a 5 percent ARP for the 1992 crops of barley, corn, sorghum and wheat, and a 10 percent ARP for upland cotton. No acreage reduction will be required for oats. The 1992 acreage reduction percentage for rice has not been announced.

Details of the 1992 farm programs will be announced later and will be available to producers through county offices of the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

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USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON 1992 EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation is requesting comments on the 1992 extra long staple (ELS) cotton acreage reduction program.

Keith Bjerke, CCC executive vice president, said comments should address whether the ELS cotton acreage reduction percentage for 1992 should be 0, 5 or 10 percent. Following are the estimated impacts of the options considered:

Estimated Impacts of 1992 ELS Cotton ARP Options

Item	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
ARP (Percent)	0	5	10
Participation (Percent)	40	30	25
Planted Acres (1,000)	257	255	253
Production (1,000 bales)	485	481	478
Domestic Use (1,000 bales)	75	75	75
Exports (1,000 bales)	400	400	400
Ending Stocks (1,000 bales)	114	110	107
Deficiency Payments (\$1 mil.)	1.691	1.403	1.115

Additional details will appear in the Nov. 4 Federal Register.

Submit comments by Nov. 15 to: Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA, ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. All comments will be available for public inspection in Room 3760-S, USDA, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., during regular business hours. A regulatory impact analysis on the 1992 ELS cotton program may be obtained from the Commodity Analysis Division.

For more information contact Charles Cunningham (202) 720-7954.

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

#

PLANT MULCH OFFERS NEW WAY TO GROW TOMATOES

WASHINGTON—A new way of growing tomatoes bears good news for both growers and Mother Nature, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists report.

“Plant mulches are the key to our success,” said Aref A. Abdul-Baki, a plant physiologist with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. “We used hairy vetch instead of the traditional black polyethylene mulch in two separate tomato plantings this year. We got some amazing results.”

Hairy vetch, a legume that forms a plant ground covering or mulch by the time the tomatoes are planted, increased yield by about 138 percent and reduced insect infestation to the point where it was hardly a problem, Abdul-Baki said. An added bonus: No tillage and less fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides.

Unlike plastic, he said, plant mulches add organic matter to the soil and increase its water-holding capacity. Also, he added, vetch is a legume that adds nitrogen, thereby reducing the amount of fertilizer needed.

In the October issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine, he said that growers typically use black plastic mulch to improve yield and to promote early crop maturity. However, polyethylene mulch doesn’t degrade, so it must be removed and disposed of each season—an expensive, labor-intensive practice and an environmental problem for landfills.

Tomato plants growing in vetch plots were greener and bigger than plants in plots where plastic, paper and no mulches were used, Abdul-Baki noted.

Yields from plants grown under the vetch mulch averaged more than 45 tons per acre, trailed by 35 tons for plastic mulch and 34 tons for paper. Control plots with no mulch at all averaged 19 tons per acre.

Last fall in experimental tomato field plots at the ARS Vegetable Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., Abdul-Baki and colleague John Teasdale planted hairy vetch on prepared beds. They mowed the vetch to about an inch high in the spring, then immediately planted tomatoes in the plots without turning up the soil or disturbing it at all.

“Immediately after planting, it was hard to distinguish the green tomato plants from the cuttings of freshly-mown vetch,” Abdul-Baki said. But within a few days the cuttings dried, forming a heavy, brown matted covering.

“This matted residue suppressed early-season weeds, eliminating the need for preplant herbicides,” said Teasdale, a plant physiologist in the ARS Weed Science Laboratory at Beltsville. Sencor—used for grass weed control—and Poast—broadly used for weed control—are chemicals that were used only for those weeds that emerged later in the season.

Weeds were stifled by other mulches, but paper mulch didn’t allow much water to pass through to aid the plants. However, unlike plastic, it prevents heat buildup under the mulch.

As for insects, Abdul-Baki said, “a surprising finding was the absence of Colorado potato beetles.” This reduced the amount of pesticides needed. The Colorado potato beetle is a major pest of tomatoes during the first month after field planting.

Infestation by the beetle was severe in adjacent plots where plastic and paper mulches were used, he said.

Abdul-Baki planned to pull up the test tomato plants, roots and all, at the end of the growing season which is usually four months, May thru September, and removed them from the field for mulching and recycling. The beds were not disturbed.

He will reseed with hairy vetch this fall, mow in the spring and transplant tomatoes completely without turning up the soil.

Once the technique is refined, Abdul-Baki thinks it might work for other vegetable crops.

Doris Stanley (301) 344-2767

Issued: October 31, 1991

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CCC INTEREST RATE FOR NOVEMBER LOWERED TO 5 3/8 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—Commodity loans disbursed in November by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 5 3/8 percent interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 5 3/8 interest rate is down from October’s 5 5/8 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in November.

John Carlin Ryan (202) 720-8207

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE I COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1992

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued the first-quarter country and commodity allocations for fiscal year 1992 under Title I of Public Law 480, the Food for Peace Program.

Because situations develop which can cause a change in country and commodity allocations during the fiscal year, these allocations do not represent final U.S. commitments with participating governments. The attached table showing the planned country allocations is based on a total commodity funding level of \$511.6 million.

Title I of P.L. 480 is a concessional sales program to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster broad based sustainable development in recipient countries.

The program provides export financing over payment periods of from 10 to 30 years, grace periods of up to 7 years, and low interest rates. Depending upon the terms of the agreement, payment may be in dollars or in local currencies.

Developing countries that are eligible for the Title I program have problems meeting all of their food needs through commercial channels and are experiencing a shortage of foreign exchange earnings. The factors that determine priorities for country allocations include food needs, potential for becoming a U.S. market and improvement of food security through agricultural projects and economic measures.

Additional technical information on the P.L. 480 program is available from Mary Chambliss of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 447-3573.

A complete list of allocations follows.

**FY 1992 Public Law 480 Titles I
Country and Commodity Allocations**

Country	\$Mil. Total	Undesig- nated	Wheat/ Flour ^a	Rice	Feed Grains	Vegoil	Oilseeds Meals	Tallow
	(Mil.)	(Mil.)	(1,000	Metric	Tons/Bales/Boardfeet)			
Congo	2.0	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	10.0	—	80	—	—	—	—	—
Cote D'Ivoire	10.0	—	—	34	—	—	—	—
Dominican Repub.	10.0	—	37	—	—	7	—	—
Egypt	150.0	—	1,002	—	—	—	—	—
El Salvador	30.0	—	150	—	—	6	—	28
Guatemala	15.0	—	120	—	—	—	—	—
Guyana	5.0	—	42	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica	30.0	—	86	31	81	—	—	—
Morocco	35.0	—	48	—	—	60	—	—
Nicaragua	25.0	25.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pakistan	20.0	—	—	—	—	30	—	—
Philippines	20.0	—	—	—	—	—	87	—
Sierra Leone	5.0	—	16	11	—	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	5.0	—	37	—	—	—	—	—
Tunisia	10.0	—	81	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	382.0	25.0	1,699	82	81	103	87	28
TOTALS	382.0	25.0	1,699	82	81	103	87	28

Food for Progress Program

Country	\$Mil. Total	Undesig- nated	Wheat/ Flour ^a	Rice	Feed Grains	Vegoil	Oilseeds Meals	Tallow
	(Mil.)	(Mil.)	(1,000	Metric	Tons/Bales/Boardfeet)			
Albania	7.5 ^b	0	40	0	0	0	0	0
	7.5	0.0	40	0	0	0	0	0
Allocated	389.5							
Unallocated Reserve	122.1							
Total Commodity Program	511.6							

^a Wheat flour included as grain equivalent.

^b Total includes transportation costs.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

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USDA ISSUES 1991 GRADE LOAN RATES FOR VIRGINIA FIRE AND SUN-CURED TOBACCOS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation today issued price support loan rates for the grades of 1991-crop Virginia fire-cured, type 21 and Virginia sun-cured, type 37 tobaccos.

The rates for Virginia fire-cured tobacco are based on the average support level of \$1.332 per pound, compared with a price support level of \$1.262 per pound for the 1990 crop. The grade rates will range from 83 cents to \$1.99 per pound. Tobacco graded N1L, N1D, N1GL, N1GD, N2 (substandard nondescript), “W” (doubtful keeping order), “No-G” (no grade), “U” (unsound), or scrap will not be accepted for price support.

The rates for Virginia sun-cured tobacco are based on the average support level of \$1.177 per pound. The 1990 support level was \$1.115 per pound. Grade loan rates will range from 87 cents to \$1.99 per pound. Suncured tobacco grades N1L, N2L, N1R, N2R, N1G, N2G, “U” (unsound), “No-G” (no grade), “W” (doubtful keeping order), or scrap will not be accepted for price support.

The 1991 grade loan rates reflect minor adjustments from the 1990 rates due to changes in the level of price support and shifts in the historical average grade distribution. The rates were determined in consultation with the Dark Tobacco Sales Cooperative, the producer association that provides price support for these types of tobacco.

Only the original producer is eligible for price support under the program. The tobacco association, through which price support is made available to producers, will deduct one cent per pound from support rates paid to producers to help cover overhead costs.

Tables of rates, by types and grades, follow:

Tobacco is eligible for advances only when consigned by the original producer and only if produced on a cooperating farm. The Association is authorized to deduct one cent per pound to apply against overhead costs.

A number following the grade represents the length designation of the tobacco. A “3” is the same as the 1985 crop length designation of “47”; “2” represents a combination of former lengths “46” and “45” and “1” represents a combination of former lengths “44” and “43.”

**1991 Crop Fire-Cured Price Support Schedule
(Type 21)**

Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate
Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
A1F3	194	B3D3	169	C2L3	192
A1F2	194	B3D2	170	C2L2	193
		B3D1	165	C2L1	189
A2F3	185				
A2F2	185	B4D3	161	C3L3	177
		B4D2	163	C3L2	180
A1D3	194	B4D1	158	C3L1	176

A1D2	194				
		B5D3	156	C4L3	170
A2D3	185	B5D2	157	C4L2	170
A2D2	185	B5D1	152	C4L1	169
B1F3	189	B3M3	146	C5L3	156
B1F2	189	B3M2	149	C5L2	157
		B3M1	143	C5L1	153
B2F3	183				
B2F2	183	B4M3	139	C1F3	198
B2F1	179	B4M2	142	C1F2	199
		B4M1	139		
B3F3	174			C2F3	192
B3F2	176	B5M3	126	C2F2	193
B3F1	173	B5M2	128	C2F1	189
		B5M1	126		
B4F3	169			C3F3	177
B4F2	170	B3G3	133	C3F2	180
B4F1	163	B3G2	135	C3F1	176
		B3G1	129		
B5F3	156			C4F3	170
B5F2	157	B4G3	128	C4F2	170
B5F1	153	B4G2	130	C4F1	169
		B4G1	124		
B1D3	183			C5F3	156
B1D2	184	B5G3	120	C5F2	157
		B5G2	122	C5F1	153
B2D3	174	B5G1	114		
B2D2	176			C2D3	157
B2D1	169	C1L3	198	C2D2	159
		C1L2	199	C2D1	156
C3D3	145	C5G3	124	X3G	110
C3D2	147	CG52	126	X3G2	106
C3D1	143	C5G1	120		
				X4G	102
C4D3	136	X1L	140	X4G2	95
C4D2	138	X2L	138		
C4D1	135	X3L	134	X5G	87
		X4L	131	X5G2	83

C5D3	124	X5L	119
C5D2	125		
C5D1	124	X1F	140
		X2F	138
C3M3	149	X3F	134
C3M2	154	X4F	131
C3M1	148	X5F	119
C4M3	144	X1D	134
C4M2	146	X2D	129
C4M1	144	X3D	125
		X4D	115
C5M3	132	X5D	104
C5M2	133		
C5M1	130	X3M	114
		X3M2	110
C3G3	140		
C3G2	140	X4M	105
C3G1	138	X4M2	101
C4G3	134	X5M	91
C4G2	135	X5M2	87
C4G1	129		

1991 Crop Sun-Cured Price Support Schedule (Type 37)

A number following the grade represents the length designation of the tobacco. A “3” represents tobacco over 28 inches in length, a “2” represents a combination of 1985 crop lengths “45” and “46” and “1” is a combination of former length “44” and the comparable quality of “tips”.

Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate
(Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
A1F3	193	A2R3	184	B2F3	182
A1F2	196	A2R2	187	B2F2	185
				B2F1	180

A2F3	184	A3R3	176		
A2F2	187	A3R2	179	B3F3	172
				B3F2	174
A3F3	176	B1F3	188	B3F1	172
A3F2	179	B1F2	190		
		B1F1	184	B4F3	162
A1R3	193			B4F2	164
A1R2	196			B4F1	162
B5F3	152	B3G3	133	C2R3	128
B5F2	153	B3G2	135	C2R2	130
B5F1	152	B3G1	129	C2R1	127
B1R3	183	B4G3	128	C3R3	123
B1R2	184	B4G2	130	C3R2	126
B1R1	180	B4G1	124	C3R1	120
B2R3	175	B5G3	119	C4R3	113
B2R2	176	B5G2	122	C4R2	116
B2R1	169	B5G1	115	C4R1	114
B3R3	169	C1L3	198	C5R3	105
B3R2	169	C1L2	199	C5R2	106
B3R1	165	C1L1	198	C5R1	103
B4R3	161	C2L3	192	C3M3	142
B4R2	162	C2L2	193	C3M2	145
B4R1	158	C2L1	189	C3M1	141
B5R3	155	C3L3	174	C4M3	138
B5R2	157	C3L2	177	C4M2	139
B5R1	152	C3L1	174	C4M1	136
B1D3	183	C4L3	165	C5M3	128
B1D2	184	C4L2	166	C5M2	131
B1D1	180	C4L1	161	C5M1	128
B2D3	175	C5L3	151	C3G3	137
B2D2	176	C5L2	154	C3G2	140
B2D1	169	C5L1	152	C3G1	137
B3D3	169	C1F3	198	C4G3	127
B3D2	169	C1F2	199	C4G2	131

B3D1	165	C1F1	195	C4G1	126
B4D3	161	C2F3	192	C5G3	120
B4D2	162	C2F2	194	C5G2	122
B4D1	158	C2F1	190	C5G1	119
B5D3	155	C3F3	172	X1L	135
B5D2	156	C3F2	174	X2L	133
B5D1	152	C3F1	172	X3L	129
				X4L	126
B3M3	135	C4F3	163	X5L	112
B3M2	138	C4F2	164		
B3M1	134	C4F1	162	X1F	135
				X2F	133
B4M3	131	C5F3	151	X3F	129
B4M2	133	C5F2	154	X4F	126
B4M1	127	C5F1	150	X5F	112
B5M3	124	C1R3	144		
B5M2	125	C1R2	145		
B5M1	120	C1R1	143		
X1R	129				
X2R	126				
X3R	123				
X4R	118				
X5R	107				
X3D	125				
X4D	115				
X5D	103				
X3M	114				
X4M	105				
X5M	91				
X3G	109				
X4G	102				
X5G	87				

USDA ISSUES 1991 GRADE LOAN RATES FOR DARK AIR-CURED AND FIRE-CURED TOBACCOS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today issued price support loan rates for the grades of the 1991-crop Kentucky and Tennessee dark air-cured tobacco, types 35 and 36, and fire-cured tobacco, types 22 and 23.

Loan rates reflect the average support level of \$1.169 per pound for dark air-cured tobacco and \$1.367 for fire-cured tobacco. The dark air-cured support is approximately 5.6 percent, and the fire-cured support level is approximately 5.4 percent, both are more than the 1990 average support level.

Adjustments were made in certain grades to reflect the overall grade distribution change. Tobacco associations through which price support is made available to producers, will deduct one cent per pound to cover administrative expenses. The rates were determined in consultation with the producer associations that provide price support for the respective types of tobacco.

Rates for dark air-cured tobacco will range from 49 cents to \$2.01 per pound. Rates for fire-cured will range from 43 cents to \$2.03 per pound.

The 1991 individual grade loan rates are based on production records which serve as a basis for projecting average grade distribution, assuming normal production and weather conditions.

Dark air-cured tobacco grades X5L, X5F, X5R, X5D, X5M, X5G, N1L, N1R, N1G, N2L, N2R, N2G, "No-G" (no grade), "U" (unsound), "W" (doubtful keeping order), "BH" (big heads), or scrap will not be accepted for price support.

Fire-cured tobacco will not be accepted for price support when graded N1L, N1D, N1GL, N1GX, N2, "No-G" (no grade), "U" (unsound), "W" (doubtful keeping order) or scrap.

Tables of rates, by types and grades, follow:

Tobacco is eligible for advances only when consigned by the original producer and only if produced on a cooperating farm. The associations are authorized to deduct one cent per pound to apply against overhead costs.

A number following the grade represents the length designation of the tobacco. A "3" is the same as the 1985 crop length designation of "47"; "2" represents a combination of former lengths "46" and "45" and "1" represents a combination of former lengths "44" and "43".

1991 Crop Dark Air-Cured Price Support Schedule
(Types 35 and 36)

Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate	Grade	Loan Rate
(Cents per pound farm sales weight)					
A1F3	201	B1R3	191	B5D3	121
A1F2	201	B1R2	191	B5D2	121
		B1R1	171	B5D1	111
A2F3	191	B2R3	181		
A2F2	191	B2R2	181	B3M3	131
		B2R1	161	B3M2	131
A3F3	185			B3M1	116
A3F2	185	B3R3	171		
		B3R2	171	B4M3	101
A1R3	201	B3R1	151	B4M2	101
A1R2	201			B4M1	94
		B4R3	151		
A2R3	191	B4R2	151	B5M3	71
A2R2	191	B4R1	131	B5M2	71
				B5M1	61
A3R3	185	B5R3	126		
A3R2	185	B5R2	126	B3G3	126
		B5R1	111	B3G2	126
B1F3	196			B3G1	116
B1F2	196	B1D3	186		
B1F1	176	B1D2	186	B4G3	101
		B1D1	166	B4G2	101
B2F3	186			B4G1	94
B2F2	186	B2D3	176		
B2F1	166	B2D2	176	B5G3	71
		B2D1	156	B5G2	71
B3F3	175			B5G1	61
B3F2	175	B3D3	166		
B3F1	155	B3D2	166	C1L3	181
		B3D1	151	C1L2	181

B4F3	155			C1L1	163
B4F2	155	B4D3	146		
B4F1	135	B4D2	146	C2L3	171
		B4D1	131	C2L2	171
B5F3	125			C2L1	156
B5F2	125				
B5F1	115				
C3L3	160	C3M3	131		
C3L2	160	C3M2	131		
C3L1	144	C3M1	116		
C4L3	143	C4M3	101		
C4L2	143	C4M2	101		
C4L1	135	C4M1	94		
C5L3	122	C5M3	71		
C5L2	122	C5M2	71		
C5L1	104	C5M1	61		
C1F3	196	C3G3	126		
C1F2	196	C3G2	126		
C1F1	176	C3G1	116		
C2F3	186	C4G3	101		
C2F2	186	C4G2	101		
C2F1	166	C4G1	94		
C3F3	175	C5G3	71		
C3F2	175	C5G2	71		
C3F1	155	C5G1	61		
C4F3	155	X1L	141		
C4F2	155	X2L	135		
C4F1	135	X3L	112		
		X4L	87		
C5F3	125				
C5F2	125	X1F	151		
C5F1	115	X2F	142		
		X3F	121		
C1R3	191	X4F	91		
C1R2	191				

C1R1	166	X1R	146
		X2R	142
C2R3	181	X3R	117
C2R2	181	X4R	91
C2R1	161		
		X3D	111
C3R3	171	X4D	81
C3R2	171		
C3R1	151	X3M	81
		X4M	56
C4R3	151		
C4R2	151	X3G	80
C4R1	131	X4G	49
C5R3	126		
C5R2	126		
C5R1	111		

**1991 Crop Fire-Cured Price Support Schedule
(Types 22 & 23)**

A1F3	203	B4D3	160	C2L3	178
A1F2	203	B4D2	160	C2L2	178
		B4D1	145	C2L1	165
A2F3	198				
A2F2	198	B5D3	144	C3L3	167
		B5D2	144	C3L2	167
A3F3	193	B5D1	128	C3L1	155
A3F2	193				
		B3M3	136	C4L3	150
A1D3	203	B3M2	136	C4L2	150
A1D2	203	B3M1	120	C4L1	143
A2D3	198	B4M3	119	C5L3	139
A2D2	198	B4M2	119	C5L2	139
		B4M1	100	C5L1	133
A3D3	193				
A3D2	193	B5M3	96	C1F3	192
		B5M2	96	C1F2	192
B1F3	192				

B5M1	85			C1F1	176
B1F2	192				
B1F1	176	B3VF3	145	C2F3	187
		B3VF2	145	C2F2	187
B2F3	187	B3VF1	133	C2F1	172
B2F2	187				
B2F1	172	B4VF3	129	C3F3	181
		B4VF2	129	C3F2	181
B3F3	181	B4VF1	107	C3F1	166
B3F2	181				
B3F1	166	B5VF3	103	C4F3	169
		B5VF2	103	C4F2	169
B4F3	169	B5VF1	93	C4F1	150
B4F2	169				
B4F1	150	B3G3	127	C5F3	148
		B3G2	127	C5F2	148
B5F3	152	B3G1	116	C5F1	135
B5F2	152				
B5F1	138	B4G3	111	C1D3	188
		B4G2	111	C1D2	188
B1D3	188	B4G1	100	C1D1	174
B1D2	188				
B1D1	174	B5G3	91	C2D3	182
		B5G2	91	C2D2	182
B2D3	182	B5G1	85	C2D1	166
B2D2	182				
B2D1	166	C1L3	184	C3D3	175
		C1L2	184	C3D2	175
B3D3	177	C1L1	172	C3D1	151
B3D2	177				
B3D1	153				
C4D2	160	X2L	123		
C4D1	145	X3L	108		
		X4L	96		
C5D3	144	X5L	88		
C5D2	144				
C5D1	128	X1F	142		
		X2F	134		
C3M3	136	X3F	124		

C3M2	136	X4F	112
C3M1	120	X5F	99
C4M3	119	X1D	140
C4M2	119	X2D	130
C4M1	100	X3D	118
		X4D	98
C5M3	96	X5D	79
C5M2	96		
C5M1	85	X3M	83
		X4M	63
C3VF3	145	X5M	43
C3VF2	145		
C3VF1	133	X3VF	111
		X4VF	91
C4VF3	129	X5VF	71
C4VF2	129		
C4VF1	107	X3G	88
		X4G	66
C5VF3	103	X5G	43
C5VF2	103		
C5VF1	93		
C3G3	125		
C3G2	125		
C3G1	105		
C4G3	103		
C4G2	103		
C4G1	95		
C5G3	84		
C5G2	84		
C5G1	79		

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.

#

USDA ISSUES 1991 GRADE LOAN RATES FOR CIGAR TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation today issued price support loan rates for the grades of 1991-crop Wisconsin cigar binder tobaccos, types 54 and 55.

Since no cigar filler, types 42-44, tobacco is reported planted in Ohio, grade loan rates for this tobacco will not be issued.

The 1991 rates are based on the average support level of \$101.4 per pound announced March 1. For 1990, the average support level was 96.2 cents per pound.

The rates for Wisconsin binder, types 54 and 55, range from 40 cents to \$1.41 per pound. Wisconsin types 54 and 55 grades N2, “No-G” (no grade) or scrap will not be accepted for price support.

The no-net-cost tobacco program assessment for Wisconsin cigar binder tobacco has been announced at zero for the 1991 crop. For any cigar filler tobacco produced in Ohio, a no-net-cost tobacco assessment of \$101.4 per pound will be due on each pound marketed. The Southern Wisconsin Association will deduct 2 cents and the Northern Wisconsin Association will deduct 1 cent per pound to help defray the associations’ administrative costs.

Only the original producer is eligible for price support advances.

**Wisconsin Binder (types 54 and 55)
Grade and Loan Rates**

Grade	Cents per Pound
X1	141
X2	115
X3	84
N1	40

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#

“PARASITE PILLS” WERE MOST UNUSUAL 1991 IMPORT BY USDA INSECT LAB

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4—Pest-killing wasps in “parasite pills” are undergoing their first field trials in this country, aimed at squelching a damaging insect pest of corn.

A scientist at a U.S. Department of Agriculture insect laboratory in Delaware said the wasp-laden capsules are “probably the most unusual natural pest control we have imported in recent years” to wage nonchemical wars on U.S. insect and weed pests.

Made by a French firm, the soft cardboard capsules are the size of oyster crackers, said Larry Ertle of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. “Inside each capsule are 500 to 600 eggs of the Mediterranean flour moth. And inside each moth egg is a tinier egg of a wasp known to kill European corn borers and other crop pests,” said Ertle, quarantine officer at the Beneficial Insects Introduction Research Laboratory, Newark, Del.

Ertle said the capsules—called Trichocaps after the wasp, *Trichogramma maidis*—protect the immature wasp from predators and the environment. This past summer, he shipped thousands of Trichocaps to Iowa State University entomologist David Orr, who began a two-year test with an ARS lab in Ankeny, Iowa, and a seed company, Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

After young wasps hatch from their eggs, they devour the flour moth eggs, Orr said. Later, “when the wasps mature, they mate inside the capsule,” he said. “Then the females exit through a tiny hole in the capsule and start looking for corn borer eggs to lay their own eggs in.”

Orr spread the capsules on test plots and called the early results promising. “There were 26 percent fewer corn borers in the Trichocap plots than in the plots protected by insecticide,” he said.

“We need more tests to see if—and how—farmers could use Trichocaps in the American midwest,” said Leslie Lewis, who heads the ARS Corn Insects Research Laboratory in Ankeny. “For example, our summers are hotter than in Europe, and high heat ‘cooked’ many of the wasps inside the capsules.”

Trichocaps and other good-guy wasps, beetles and other insects shipped to the Delaware lab are featured in the cover story of the latest issue of Agricultural Research magazine. Unlike Trichocaps—a commercial product—most of Newark’s imports are shipped after being collected in

the wild and tested by ARS scientists based overseas or in the U.S.

“People here and all over the world depend on ARS to supply imported beneficial insects,” said Richard Soper in an interview in the magazine. Soper, based in Beltsville, Md., is the agency’s national program leader for biocontrol.

He said researchers at ARS biocontrol labs “have to prove scientifically, through rigorous lab and field trials, that biocontrol can work without harming profitability.” Immigrant bugs that pass rigorous research trials are released by the millions for seasonal pest-control programs or freed in small numbers to make new year-round homes in fields and forests.

In 1990, Newark received 253 lots of insects from 12 countries, and sent 410 lots to ARS scientists, other agencies, universities and private insectaries in 17 states and three foreign countries, according to the magazine’s report.

Other highlights in the magazine’s story on Newark:

- * An inch-long wasp, *Coccygomimus disparis*, is established in 16 states and recently became “the first new gypsy moth parasite to become established in the United States in 50 years,” said Newark entomologist Paul W. Schaefer.

- * In 1991 these gypsy-moth-killing wasps were recovered in Minnesota for the first time. “We’re ahead of schedule and very happy for it,” said University of Minnesota entomologist Willis Schaupp. He wants the wasps ready to attack if the moths invade in large numbers.

- * An old import—the big, metallic green caterpillar hunter—is slowly spreading mayhem among gypsy moths. “Sometimes it will attack and chew up a gypsy moth caterpillar just a little, leave it for dead and go find another one,” said Schaefer.

- * A recent lady beetle import is much in demand to combat Russian wheat aphids. ARS scientists based in France found *Scymnus frontalis* in Turkey in 1988. In 1990 and 1991, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service released hundreds of thousands in grain fields in 16 western states.

- * Just beginning to find a home is the quarter-inch-long *Peristenus digoneutis* wasp. Its chief quarry is the tarnished plant bug, a pest of alfalfa, cotton and many fruits and vegetables, said Newark entomologist William Day. He said scientists in seven states are beginning or expanding tests of this wasp against the plant bug and its relative, the lygus bug, to reduce damage to strawberries and other crops.

In the 1960's, Day and other colleagues at USDA and universities began releasing a battery of imported insects in what would become one of the biggest biocontrol successes to date in the U.S. The enemy was the alfalfa weevil, a voracious pest of the U.S. crop. A 1989 report by University of Massachusetts economists estimated that weevil biocontrol saves U.S. alfalfa growers \$88 million annually in pesticides and application costs.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-3648

#

EASTERN EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIANS TO MEET AT USDA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—Senior agricultural officials and library directors from throughout eastern Europe will meet at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md., Nov. 12-20, for a roundtable discussion on enhancing global access to agricultural information.

“The ten-day conference—called Information Transfer in a Global Economy: Forging New Connections—will feature presentations, technology demonstrations, a visit to one of the U.S. land-grant colleges and the drafting of a joint needs assessment and action plan,” said NAL Director Joseph H. Howard.

In addition to librarians and information technology specialists from USDA, officials from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia will participate.

“Within the last year, we began to receive a number of requests for visits to NAL from agricultural specialists in these newly reorganized countries,” Howard said. “There is obviously much concern about improving agricultural output in these countries and NAL is viewed as a prime resource for information on doing this.”

The ten-day conference will feature formal presentations by each of the participants, demonstrations of information management technologies used at NAL and informal meetings to discuss issues of common interest.

Participants also will travel to Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, for additional technology demonstrations.

Several of the activities are being sponsored by the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc., a non-profit, private “friends of the library” group.

NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world with 2.3 million volumes and receiving 26,000 periodicals annually. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

#

USDA ANNOUNCES COMMODITY AVAILABILITY FOR SECTION 416(B)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make available 1,170,000 metric tons of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stocks of corn, sorghum, butter and butteroil, and nonfat dry milk for donation overseas in fiscal year 1992 under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, according to F. Paul Dickerson, USDA’s general sales manager.

Section 416(b) authorizes the secretary of agriculture to furnish commodities acquired by the CCC in the normal course of operations for assistance programs in developing countries and friendly countries. These overseas donations are not permitted to reduce the amounts of commodities that traditionally are donated to domestic feeding programs or agencies, prevent the fulfillment of any agreement entered into under a payment-in-kind program, or disrupt normal commercial sales.

Additional technical information on the Section 416(b) program is available from Mary Chambliss of USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 720-3573.

The commodities and tonnages are listed in the following table.

Commodity	Quantity (Metric tons)
Corn	760,000
Sorghum	255,000
Butter/Butter Oil	80,000
Nonfat Dry Milk	75,000
Total	1,170,000

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

#

USDA ESTABLISHES SPECIAL GRADE FOR GLUTINOUS RICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has changed the U.S. rice standards to establish a special grade for glutinous rice.

Glutinous rice, also known as waxy or sweet rice, is characterized by chalky kernels. In non-glutinous rice, however, chalky kernels are considered undesirable.

Prior to the changes announced today, the U.S. rice standards imposed grade limits on all rice with chalky kernels.

FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz said a special grade has now been established for all types and classes of glutinous rice, and that the standards have been revised so that the grading factor "chalky kernels" does not apply to glutinous rice.

Foltz said domestic production of glutinous rice has recently increased, and that the changes to the standards were necessary to facilitate marketing of this specialty product.

This final rule, published Oct. 31 in the Federal Register, will become effective Dec. 2.

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091

#

USDA, HHS PROPOSE FOOD LABELING RULES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—The Bush Administration today announced proposals for sweeping changes in food labels that will affect virtually all foods.

In announcing this most extensive food labeling proposal ever, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman and Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., said the changes will help consumers select a healthier diet by providing accurate and reliable information about the nutritional content of food. The changes are expected to be fully implemented in 1993.

The HHS proposals cover most of the broad changes required by the 1990 Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA). While meat and poultry products were exempted by the NLEA, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food

Safety and Inspection Service to issue nutrition labeling proposals for meat and poultry products in harmony with those for other foods.

The most important new rules in today's proposal include:

- Mandatory nutrition labeling for most processed foods, including consistent serving sizes in easily understandable measurements for most food categories.

- Definitions for descriptive terms such as “light,” “lean,” and “fresh,” to ensure consistent use of such terms for the benefit of consumers.

- Conditions for statement of health claims on foods that contain nutrients that have a scientifically documented relationship with the risk of a disease.

In addition, today's announcement covers the implementation of a voluntary nutrition labeling program for raw fruits, vegetables, and fish, as well as raw, single ingredient meat and poultry products.

“We must restore the credibility of the food label,” said Dr. Sullivan. “Our goal is to make the information on the label clear and useful, so that American consumers can make informed choices to improve their health and well being.”

“As a congressman, Secretary Madigan was a key architect of the NLEA,” Veneman said. “Together, USDA and DHHS have now laid the groundwork for a set of uniform nutrition labeling policies that take the guesswork out of planning healthy diets.”

The Food and Drug Administration, a Public Health Service agency within HHS, regulates all foods except for meat and poultry products, which are regulated by USDA.

HHS' actions are part of a larger effort to carry out the NLEA signed by President Bush in 1990, as well as a furtherance of an initiative by the FDA which, at Dr. Sullivan's request, had already undertaken a comprehensive review of food labels.

USDA's proposal defines 23 meat and poultry product categories for nutrition labeling purposes. Veneman said that this proposal is generally consistent with the FDA proposals for other foods. An exception: the terms “lean” and “extra lean” are proposed for meat and poultry products that meet strict limits on fat, saturated fat and cholesterol; these terms would not be used on any other food labels.

Today's proposals would:

- Require listing of information about a food's nutrient content on most labels. While many processed foods have included nutrition labeling for

many years, it has never been required across the board. In addition, the list of required nutrients would be changed to emphasize nutrients that have a more significant impact on the health of today's consumers, such as cholesterol, fat and dietary fiber. The terms for some nutrients would also be simplified. For example, "saturated fat" would be used rather than "saturated fatty acids." —Provide for nutrition information to be presented as quantitative amounts—for example, 4 grams of fat—or as percentages of certain recommended daily amounts. This would give consumers a better basis for comparing nutrient contents of various foods.

—Address fat, fatty acid and cholesterol content claims. If a food is promoted as "cholesterol-free," "low cholesterol" or "x-percent fat-free," consumers may assume that it promotes good health or that it is different from competitive brands, when in fact this may not currently be the case. The proposed regulations would prevent these terms from being used in a misleading manner.

—Permit health claims for nutrients only when a valid relationship between the nutrient and the disease in question is scientifically demonstrated. Relationships between calcium and osteoporosis, sodium and hypertension, fat and cardiovascular disease, and fat and cancer are the only ones of those considered which are currently supported by sufficient data and are proposed to be allowed on the label. Two more claims—for fiber and heart disease, and fiber and cancer—will continue to be studied. FDA is reserving judgment on these claims until it gets enough additional information on which to base a final decision.

At a later date, USDA plans to propose labeling requirements for health claims consistent with FDA's.

FDA Commissioner David A. Kessler, M.D., said, "In developing the proposals, we've reached out to consumer, health and industry groups. Our job is to make sure that the information presented on the food label is balanced, that it tells the whole story."

In addition, FDA and USDA are analyzing the potential benefits and costs of the entire label reform initiative, including its impact on small businesses. Although early estimates have placed the cost to food manufacturers at approximately \$2 billion over 20 years, benefits of reduced medical costs and increased productivity from a healthier diet should be many times that much.

Sullivan and Veneman encouraged business, industry and consumers to study the proposals. Comments will be accepted for 90 days after they are published in the Federal Register.

Written comments on the HHS proposals should cite the docket number and be sent to: Dockets Management Branch, HFA-305, FDA, Room 1-23, 12420 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Md. 20857. Private individuals may submit one copy of comments; all others should submit two copies.

Written comments on the USDA proposals should cite Docket Number 91-006P and be sent to: Policy Office, Attn: Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-South Bldg., Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Oral comments as provided for by the Poultry Products Inspection Act may be directed to Mr. Charlie Edwards, FSIS, (202) 205-0080.

Under the NLEA, final regulations must be completed by Nov. 8, 1992. Food manufacturers would then have until May 8, 1993, to begin providing products with the new labels.

Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623 (USDA)

Chris Lecos (202) 245-1144 (FDA)

(Home) (703) 354-4418

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